

ABSTRACT

A method, a control unit, and a computer program for detecting a defective intake-manifold pressure sensor and/or a defective ambient-pressure sensor in an internal combustion engine having a variable valve timing are provided. The desired detection is carried out exclusively on the basis of a direct evaluation of the pressure upstream from the throttle valve and the pressure in the intake manifold. This method eliminates the need for deriving load signals from these pressures, at least for the determination as to whether at least one of the pressure sensors is defective.